

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated allowance of claims 1 through 16, 19 through 25, 27 and 29 through 50. However, the Examiner has objected to claims 17 and 18. Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claims 26, 28, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for non-statutory subject matter. In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending objections and rejections.

The Claim Objection

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to remove the informality in which the claim number for claim 18 was accidentally left at the end of claim 17. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the pending objections.

The Section 101 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 26, 28, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has kindly referred to the relevant section of the MPEP for guidance. Accordingly, the above rejected claims have been amended in the attempt to overcome the non-statutory subject matter rejections.

As the Examiner has indicated, the last paragraph in IV.B.1(a) on page 2100-13 of §2100 in the MPEP states that “[w]hen a computer program is claimed in a process where the computer is executing the computer program’s instructions, Office personnel should treat the claim as a process claim.” However, the above paragraph also refers to certain condition in paragraph IV.B.2(b) on page 2100-15. According to the paragraph IV.B.2(b), “[t]o be statutory, a claimed computer-related process must be either: (A) result in a physical transformation outside the computer for which a practical application

in the technological arts in either disclosed in the specification or would have been known to a skilled artisan ..., or (B) be limited to a practical application within the technological arts (discussed in (ii) below). In the currently pending claims, the result is “a physical transformation outside the computer” since the corrected image data is printed on image recording sheets. Furthermore, even if the printed matter is not considered as physical transformation, a claimed computer-related process is limited to a practical application within the technological arts. On page 2100-18, it is stated that “[a] claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed, produce a concrete, tangible and useful result.” That is, “the method recites a step or act of producing something that is concrete, tangible and useful.” According to amended independent claims 26, 28, 51 and 52, the draft image input is “corrected” to generate corrected image data which has produced “concrete, tangible and useful” results. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits to the Examiner that amended claims 26, 28, 51 and 52 now contain statutory subject matter.

For the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections of claims 26, 28, 51 and 52.

Amendments to Allowed Claims

The Applicant voluntarily amended the allowed claims to clarify the subject matter without modifying the scope of the already allowed claims. The claim amendments are made to eliminate informalities or further clarify the subject matter limitations. Since these claim amendments do not change the allowed scope, the Applicant believes that no further search is warranted. Thus, allowed claims 1 through 16, 19 through 25, 27 and 29 through 50 should remain allowed.

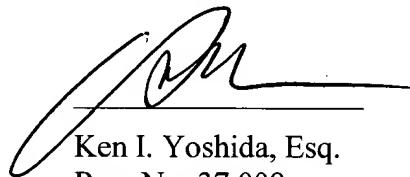
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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and attachments, the Applicants respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken I. Yoshida, Esq.
Reg. No. 37,009

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KNOBLE YOSHIDA & DUNLEAVY LLC
Eight Penn Center, Suite 1350
1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 599-0600